

### REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated October 4, 2007. Claims 1 to 3 and 7 to 13 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1 and 7 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the claimed invention is allegedly directed to non-statutory subject matter. Without conceding the correctness of the rejection, Claim 8 has been amended herein to clarify that it is directed to a computer-readable storage medium storing a computer-executable program. In addition, Claim 9 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 1 to 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over EP 1162824 (Sato) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,373,588 (Fischer). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Turning to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to a method of controlling printing in an information processing apparatus communicating with a printing apparatus. The method includes a first generation step of combining a plurality of print jobs including print data for printing pages of a document and banner print data for banner printing to generate combination print data in which the print data has been combined without using the banner print data; a second generation step of generating new banner print data for the combination print data generated in the first generation step; and an output step of outputting the combination print data and new banner print data to the printing apparatus as a single print job.

Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references, namely Sato and Fischer, considered either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest all of the features of the

method of Claim 1. In particular, the cited references, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest at least the features of combining a plurality of print jobs including print data for printing pages of a document and banner print data for banner printing to generate combination print data in which the print data has been combined without using the banner print data, and generating new banner print data for the combination print data.

In contrast, Sato discloses that an image forming apparatus combines a plurality of jobs according to instructions of a user. Furthermore, Fischer discloses that a page printer outputs a single banner page for all sets sent to a single output tray if two or more number of copies is set to a print job. However, neither Sato nor Fischer, neither alone nor in combination, disclose or suggest a first generation step of combining a plurality of print jobs including print data for printing pages of a document and banner print data for banner printing to generate combination print data in which the print data has been combined without using the banner print data and a second generation step of generating new banner print data for the combination print data generated in the first generation step as featured in Claim 1.

In light of the deficiencies of Sato and Fischer as discussed above, Applicant submits that amended independent Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Amended Claims 7 and 8 are directed to an apparatus and a computer-readable storage medium, respectively, substantially in accordance with the method of Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 7 and 8 are also now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons.

Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

### CONCLUSION

No claim fees are believed due; however, should it be determined that additional claim fees are required, the Director is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 50-3939.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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